

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Out and about in Wiesbaden

A photographic recap of recent events in the 221st BSB



Lorrie Eidem participates in the 221st BSB Sports and Fitness 5-K Fun Run/Walk Jan. 22. The run was held in conjunction with the Tony Bass Fitness Center's annual Fitness Extravaganza.



Photos by Karen Edge

Thomas Valenzela, age 8, sells cookies to a fellow Hainerberg Elementary School student as part of his class fundraiser. Mrs. Krohse's second-grade class took turns manning tables to raise money for the Save the Children Indian Ocean earthquake/tsunami relief fund.



Sgt. Patrick Sheffield measures Pat Ridge's eye pressure, testing for signs of glaucoma at the Tony Bass Fitness Extravaganza. Sheffield was one of many volunteers from the Wiesbaden Health Clinic who offered health screenings, blood pressure checks and glaucoma testing during the fair.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Photo by Karen Edge

Stairwell coordinators appraised on new policies

Building and stairwell coordinators meet Jan. 21 at Wiesbaden's Flyers Theater to shed light on new policies enacted by the 221st Base Support Battalion. Coordinators received training on how to work with residents to enforce housing rules and regulations.



Photos courtesy of the Wiesbaden Training and Support Division

Welcoming in a new year

Lt. Col. Christopher Franks (center), 221st BSB commander, and his wife, Barbara, greet Wiesbaden-Bierstadt District Mayor Johann Göttler during a New Year's Reception Jan. 23. The reception was a joint effort between the BSB, 1st Armored Division and 3rd Corps Support Command. Below: Maria Elena Sanchez, wife of V Corps commander, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, receives a good luck Pfennig from a chimney sweeper during the New Year's Reception at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center.



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Rocky L. Foote

The gift of giving

Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets receive contributions from shoppers at the Hainerberg Main Exchange last month. Twelve cadets from General H.H. Arnold High School helped raise over \$1,000 that will be sent to aid tsunami victims.

Prepare tax return, e-file at tax center

By Spc. Danielle Johansen

Wiesbaden Legal Center

It's that time of year again — tax season. Some either despise its existence or fully embrace the possibility that we might walk away a littlericher.

It is generally recognized that most service members, spouses, Department of Defense employees and U.S. civilian contractors stationed overseas face unique challenges when it comes to having taxes prepared. The Army, in recognition of the limited resources overseas people encounter, has provided a full range of tax preparation services to those who are valid ID card holders.

The Wiesbaden Tax Center will see people on a walk-in basis, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments can be made and are recommended for customers with complex tax needs. For instance taxpayers who own stocks and bonds or rental property should schedule an appointment.

On the flip-side, the Tax Center will be unable to service the following customers: service members or spouses who have their own private business in conjunction with their military employment. For example customers who file as married, filing jointly in which a spouse owns a small computer consultation business off-post cannot be served by the Tax Center. Two exceptions to this guidance are ID

card holders who own up to three rental properties and/or those whose spouses are Family Care Providers.

Preventing common errors

Before sojourning to your local Tax Center, ensure you have either a previous year's tax return that was e-filed and accepted or your Social Security number. One of the biggest obstacles faced during last year's tax season was the number of e-filed tax returns rejected by the IRS because of inaccurate Social Security numbers.

In the past 90 percent of errors with e-filed tax returns were because of incorrect Social Security numbers. Surprisingly, sometimes the number displayed on the ID card is incorrect. Soldiers and spouses who just got married or just had babies might not know the Social Security number of their loved ones by memory. Even a one-digit difference on the e-filed tax return or an incorrect spelling of a name will cause a return to be rejected by the IRS. The only solution is to require that clients bring a previously accepted e-filed tax return or their Social Security cards.

The other 10 percent of rejected e-filed tax returns are those where the service member or spouse is being claimed by someone else. This



Preparing your taxes doesn't have to be a headache. Call your local Tax Center for help preparing and filing your taxes. Best of all, it's free. Tax Centers are located in Baumholder, Friedberg, Giessen, Hanau and Wiesbaden.

is a common problem typically for young Soldiers who have just joined the Army and are still being claimed by parents.

Along with a W-2 form, bring any 1099 forms. These show interest earned from bank accounts, interest on any stocks and bonds, and interest paid on college loans. Moreover, most Soldiers who were deployed in 2004 will more than likely experience some kind of tax break. For example most military pay is not taxable while serving in a combat zone.

Another tax benefit many Soldiers can receive is Earned Income Credit. According to the Earned Income Credit Fact book, put out by the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, EIC is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes. Workers who

qualify for EIC and file a federal tax return can get back some or all of the federal income tax that was taken out of their pay during the year. They may even get additional money paid to them from the government. Because deployed Soldiers' income is not taxed, many Soldiers will qualify for EIC despite earning a decent salary in 2004. Both single and married Soldiers may qualify for EIC.

Filing tips

If you are married and filing jointly, both spouses must be present to correctly file tax forms. If one spouse cannot be present at the time of filing, then a special or general power of attorney is required. Your local Legal Assistance

Office is available to provide powers of attorney. The Tax Center can help ID card holders who still have not filed taxes for previous years file back taxes as well. Schedule an appointment for this service.

In an effort to service as many clients as possible and to maximize the space of the Wiesbaden Tax Center, there will be no specific "play room" designated for small children who accompany parents to the Tax Center, so make day care arrangements, said officials.

Located above the Shoppette at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, the Tax Center will begin seeing clients Feb. 4. Although tax season officially ends April 15, those serving overseas receive a two month extension to file; therefore, all Tax Centers throughout the 104th Area Support Group will continue serving clients until June. For an appointment call mil 337-4755 or civ (0611) 705-4755.

Travel, fest attendance require risk assessment

Courtesy of the 221st Base Support Battalion Security Office

Whether on official or unofficial travel, groups of 10 or more people traveling through or to counties where a State Department Travel Warning is in effect or attending a special event expecting more than 200 participants must have a risk assessment done before traveling.

Special events such as bazaars, fests, large ceremonies, and homecoming or graduation-style activities are included and must be approved by the general officer senior tactical commander. All other travel must be approved by the 221st Base Support Battalion commander.

All requests for unofficial group travel and special events requiring approval by the GOSTC will be submitted for processing to the 221st

BSB Security office not later than three weeks before the date of travel or special event.

Requests for risk assessments must be submitted on a Risk Assessment Worksheet available at the Information Security Office in Building 1023W at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Requests submitted less than three weeks before travel or special event must be accompa-

nied by a letter of lateness explaining why the request could not be submitted within established timeframes. Late requests are subject to disapproval if there is insufficient time to make an accurate assessment.

For more information contact the 221st BSB security manager at mil 337-6456/5540 or civ (0611) 705-6456/5540.

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes

Valentine bouquets

Balloon bouquets for your Valentine can be ordered at the All Occasion Balloon Shop at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center. Delivery is free on the airfield and \$5 for outlying areas within the 221st Base Support Battalion. Orders must be made before Feb. 7. Call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750 for more information or stop by the Balloon Shop to order.

Youth programs

Dance, ballet, photography, piano classes, horseback riding lessons and screenwriting courses are available through Child and Youth Services. Students must be registered through Central Registration at Army Community Service, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. Call mil 337-5383 or civ (0611) 705-5383.

Ski rental

Get your ski or snowboard equipment maintained or rent equipment you need from Outdoor Recreation Centers in Wiesbaden and Dexheim.

Flea market

The Community Activity Center hosts monthly indoor flea markets. Sellers can rent tables for \$10 on a first-come, first-served basis. Flea Markets will be held Feb. 26 and March 19. Doors open at 8 a.m. For more information call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750.

Quiet hours

Remember, in Germany, quiet hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. and all day Sunday and on German holidays. The use of lawn machinery or playing of loud music is prohibited from

7 p.m. to 9 a.m.; 1-3 p.m. and after 5 p.m. Be a courteous neighbor.

Yearbook sales

Aukamm Elementary School's Parent Teacher Association is currently taking orders for yearbooks. Yearbooks are \$15 each. Order forms are available at the school's main office. Volunteers are also needed to assist in putting the book together. For more information call civ (0611) 505-5706.

Thrift Shop open

The Wiesbaden Community Thrift Shop is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month. Consignments are only accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Volunteers are also needed. Call civ (0611) 74261.

Student to speak

A tip of the hat to Gen. H.H. Arnold High School senior Steven Spurgeon who will present a research paper, "The Energy Benefits of a Transaxial Alternator Array on the Fuel Consumption of a Hybrid Vehicle," at the European Junior Science and Humanities Symposium to be held March 1-4 at the Haus der Jugend in Frankfurt.



Steven Spurgeon

Gaming fun

The Community Activity Center hosts game night every Thursday at 5 p.m. If you enjoy playing board games such as Monopoly, Yahtzee, Taboo, Pictionary, Battleship, Scrabble, Risk and others, then Thursday is your night. Bring a friend or challenge others.

Scholarships available

The Wiesbaden Community

Spouses Club offers scholarships to high school seniors and continuing education students whose sponsor is an active duty, retiree or federal employee assigned in the Wiesbaden community. Applications are available at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School guidance office, Wiesbaden Commissary, Wiesbaden library, Army Community Service and both the Wiesbaden and Dexheim Education centers. For more information call civ (06134) 555 615 or send email to wscscholarships@yahoo.com.

The Army Emergency Relief program offers the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund for dependent children of U.S. Army Soldiers. This fund assists families with the costs of post-secondary undergraduate education and vocational training. Applications can be downloaded at www.aerhq.org and must be submitted by March 1. For more information call mil 334-5578.

Youth group

The Protestant Youth of the Chapel (High School group) meets every Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Aukamm Community Center. Middle School-age youth meet from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Hainerberg Chapel. Retreats are held for both groups. For more information call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

Absentee policy

Department of Defense Dependents Schools now require parents to contact the school when students will be absent for the day. Contact may be made the morning of the absence or before if parents are aware of events that will keep their child out of school.

AA meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Counseling Center in Building 1526 every

Wednesday at 7 p.m. For information on other AA meetings call the Army Substance Abuse Program coordinator at mil 337-1710 or civ (0611) 705-1710.

Positions open

The Wiesbaden branch of Bank of America seeks a part-time customer service representative. Banking experience isn't required, but is a plus. Call mil 337-6008 or civ (0611) 705-6008 for more information.

Army Community Service is seeking a volunteer program manager. Duties include maintaining files, recording hours and ensuring all volunteers receive an orientation. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Andrews Federal Credit Union has career opportunities through out the community for branch and Euro-AFCU Headquarters positions. Log on to their website at www.andrewsfcu.org for more information.

The American Arms Hotel is hiring front desk clerks and custodial workers for housekeeping. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and can apply at the Non-appropriated Fund Personnel Office in Building 1020 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. For more information call mil 338-7883 or civ (0611) 343 667.

Aukamm students raise relief money

When a world disaster such as December's tsunami strikes, there is not much a kid can do, right?

Aukamm Elementary students Kali Campbell, Maggie Howe and Kristina McKenna thought otherwise and set out to prove they could help. The girls discussed the situation among themselves and came up with an idea. After presenting their plan for fund-raising to Aukamm principal Mark Benham, the girls set out to collect funds, putting collection boxes in each classroom, the cafeteria and the library.

They didn't stop there, though. They also went to each classroom in the school and explained to other children exactly what had happened and where, and how they could help. After a week of gathering donations the third-, fourth- and fifth-grade organizers had collected over \$1,100. The money was deposited with the Aukamm Parent Teacher Association, which will donate the funds to the Red Cross International Disaster Relief Fund.

Next time you think a child can't do much, think of these children. (Courtesy of Gina Ashton)

222nd BSB — Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Tax center opens

The Baumholder Tax Center is now open to assist Soldiers and families with their tax filing needs. The center is located in Building 8670. Business hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The center will also open Feb. 5, 12 and 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. No appointments are necessary.

● Clients must bring the following items with them:

- All W-2s
- Military ID or DoD ID
- All Social Security cards
- Any 1099 Forms received
- Power of attorney (if filing a joint return and your spouse is not present)
- Last year's tax return (if applicable)

Call mil 485-6506 for details.

Become an officer

The 222nd Base Support Battalion Officer Candidate Selection Board will be held March 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the TSD large classroom, Building 8475.

The board is open to any qualified enlisted Soldier who is interested in becoming a commissioned officer.

For more information contact Sgt. Melissa Reeves or Chris Macri at the 222nd BSB Headquarters, Building 8698, or call mil 485-6788.

All packets must be completed and submitted to the 222nd BSB Adjutant's Office by March 2.

Army Community Service news: mil 485-8188

New ACS hours

Army Community Service now has new hours on Thursdays. They are open from 1-5 p.m.

Army Family Team Building

Feb. 17, Level I, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Feb. 1-2, Level II, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Feb. 22-23, Level III, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Family Readiness

The Family Readiness Liaison Council meets Feb. 17 from 8-10 a.m. Call mil 485-8542 or send an email to mari.haley@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information. Limited child care will be available with advance registration.

Family Action Plan

The annual Army Family Action Plan Conference is Feb. 14-15 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Contact Ginalyn Cowles for information at mil 485-6455 or send an email to ginalyn.cowles@104asg.mwr.army.mil.



Job ready

Feb. 1, 15, PCS Pre-Employment Class, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This class will teach you how to start seeking employment before you PCS to your next duty station.
Feb. 8, 22 Ten Steps to a Federal

ACS classes

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, Maintaining Love in a Healthy Relationship, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, Happily Ever After — Adjusting to New Marriage, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Anger Free Living, 9-11 a.m.

Feb. 7, 14, 28, Divorce Support Group, noon to 2 p.m.

Feb. 1, Male and Female — Separate But Equal

Feb. 2, Communicating As A Couple

Feb. 8, Interpersonal Communication

Feb. 9, Our Money

Feb. 15, Love and Intimacy

Feb. 16, Our Foundation, Sand or Stone?

Feb. 22, What it Means to Be Married

Feb. 23, What's Your Love Language

Job, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn to navigate through the federal job system.

Feb. 25 Resume Writing, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Cash management

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, Successful Money Management, 2-4 p.m. Participants will learn how to identify, solve and avoid problems, make a spending plan, select and manage credit.

Feb. 2, Checkbook Management, 9-11 a.m.

Feb. 9, How to Get Out and Stay Out of Debt, 9-11 a.m.

Feb. 16, Living and Saving on a Shoestring, 9-11 a.m.

Feb. 23, His Values, Her Values, Our Money, 9-11 a.m.

FLAG orientation

A Families Learning About Germany, or FLAG, orientation is scheduled for Feb. 15-16 at 8:30 a.m. The course provides an opportunity to become acquainted with Germany. On Jan. 28 (optional), attendees will take a field trip to local German shopping areas and restaurants. Get practical experience in using the German train and bus systems. Limited free child care will be available with reservations.

Happenings



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

St. Barbara's Ball

Command Sgt. Major David Cantor offers ceremonial grog to recipients of the St. Barbara's Medal, presented by Col. Jonathan Brockman, 1st Armored Division, Division Artillery commander. St. Barbara's awards and the Ancient Order of St. Barbara were presented to Soldiers, and numerous spouses received the Molly Pitcher Award for their service and dedication to DIVARTY.

YS activities

Feb. 1-18, Black History Month Poster Contest, sixth through eighth grade, Underground, 2-8 p.m., admission is free.

Feb. 12, Valentine's dance, ninth through 12th grade, Teen Cafe, 7-11 p.m.

Feb. 12, Valentine's dance, sixth through eighth grade, Underground, \$5

Feb. 14-18, Black History Month Exhibit, ninth through 12th grade, 3-8 p.m., admission is free.

Participants must be registered with Community Youth Services.

CYS: civ (06783) 6-7003, mil 485-7003

Child care offered for special events

Child care is available for events in the Baumholder community. The cost is \$2.50 an hour per child, \$2.75 an hour per child after 5 p.m. and on weekends. This service is subject to availability of staff. Children must be registered with Child Youth Services. Call mil 485-7393 for more information.

Outdoor Recreation: mil 485-7182, civ (06783) 6-7182

Plan your fun

Plan your free time now and experience Europe with Baumholder's Outdoor Recreation Center. They offer the following trips throughout Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland and Holland:

Feb. 5, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Black Forest ski trip to Feldberg, \$65

Feb. 10-14, 10-10 p.m.

Austria ski weekend to Gastein, \$415

Feb. 12, 3 a.m. to midnight

Trip to Amsterdam, Holland, \$85

Feb. 19, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Black Forest ski trip to Feldberg, \$65

Feb. 25-27, 5-10 p.m.

Switzerland ski weekend to Interlaken, \$125

March 4-6, 5-10 p.m.

Garmisch ski weekend, \$195

March 11-13, 5-10 p.m.

Switzerland ski weekend to Interlaken, \$125

March 17-20, 10-10 p.m.

Austria ski weekend to Gastein, \$315

March 26, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Black Forest ski trip to Feldberg, \$65

April 16, 3 a.m. to midnight

Trip to Keukenhof Tulip Garden, Holland, \$85

April 30, 3 a.m. to midnight

Trip to Keukenhof Tulip Garden, Holland, \$85

May 14, 3 a.m. to midnight

Trip to Keukenhof Tulip Garden, Holland, \$8

Parenting

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, Boot Camp for Dads, 2-4 p.m. This is a four-week program for new fathers.

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, Coffee Break, 10-11:30 a.m.

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, Nurturing Parenting, 10 a.m. to noon

Feb. 7, 14, 28, Nurturing Parent With Child, 3-5 p.m.

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, Nurturing Program, 10 a.m. to noon

Feb. 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 25, 28, Parent and Tot Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m.

Life coaches

Visiting professional counselors are available to provide support and guidance if you are dealing with conflict, worry or difficulty in or outside your home. Counselors are available to meet with you when and where you are most comfortable. Contact Army Community Service to schedule a meeting at mil 485-6604/8188.

Youth Services: civ (06783) 6-7276, mil 485-7276

Looking for help

Youth Services is looking for volunteers, youth and adult, to assist with special interest clubs and sporting and recreational events.

Hundreds attend National Prayer Breakfast

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Nearly 350 members of the Baumholder community gathered in the early morning hours of Jan. 12, while the dark reigned outside, for the annual National Prayer Breakfast held at the Rheinlander Convention Center.

The ceremony commenced at 6:30 a.m. with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Frank Bruning, 222nd Base Support Battalion Chaplain, welcoming the audience and the 1st Armored Division Band brass ensemble playing the German and American national anthems.

Although the event has been held in various forums over the years, be it an informal luncheon or over Meals Ready to Eat in Iraq, the Baumholder community wanted to capital-

ize the fact that the majority of the post's Soldiers are presently in a garrison, and truly capture the essence of the National Prayer Breakfast. Invitations were sent to community leaders, the event was publicized throughout the units and tickets were sold through the Chaplains Office. Approximately 300 Soldiers attended the prayer breakfast.

For the first time in many years German and American military and political leaders came together for the breakfast. German attendees included deacons and military chaplains, Mayor Volkmar Pees, the district mayor, Peter Lang, the city mayor, and a representative from the county commissioner's office.

Chaplain (Capt.) Matthew Kreider of the

2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, led the entire room in singing "America the Beautiful" immediately following breakfast. Prayers for the nation, the military, the families and the world, led by various battalion chaplains, pulled on the heart strings of many in the audience.

Brig. Gen. Michael Tucker was the guest speaker. Reflecting on the ideal of self-less service as an integral characteristic of Army values, he related many examples of Soldiers who lived up to the standard. Tucker quoted General of the Army Douglas MacArthur: "The Soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training — sacrifice."

"Historically, the priority of duty over

personal desire has been the hallmark of the American citizen-Soldier. We here in this room have seen the horror of war, yet our service at cost to self and devotion to duty remain strong and an integral part of our military community," said Tucker.

"Together, united in purpose, let us encourage one another as we fulfill our mutual Oath of Service and face the challenges of the Global War on Terror so that our children and their children may live their lives in peace."

This year is the 53rd year that Americans have hosted National Prayer Breakfasts across the country and world. Started by President Eisenhower in 1953, no president since has ever missed a National Prayer Breakfast.

Triathlon training begins

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

It the midst of ice and snow July seems as distant as another planet. That is, of course, unless you are interested in participating in the 1st Annual Baumholder Triathlon. For that you only have little less than six months to train.

Scheduled for July 30, the triathlon is open to anyone who wants to participate. In contrast to other triathlons, Baumholder's race is completed by teams. Each participant will carry the team through one of the race's three legs — either running, swimming or biking — rather than competing in all three individually.

Coordinated by a conglomerate of private organizations in Baumholder, the triathlon plans to attract athletes from across the region. Participants must register in teams of three — one runner, one biker and one swimmer. The registration fee is €35 in advance per team and €40 the



day of the triathlon. With multiple distance options, the triathlon organizers plan to host hundreds of teams.

There are three competition options and each team must select their preference in registration. Option A includes a 61 kilometer bike ride, 1.2 kilometer swim across Baumholder's lake, and a 12 kilometer run. Options B and C curtail the distances with Options C being the shortest race at 20.7 kilometers biking, 0.6 kilometer swimming and three kilometers running.

The Baumholder Triathlon encourages U.S. participation. Coordinator Gunter Heinz said he hoped for a strong turnout from the U.S. military. He is willing to work with any unit interested in forming teams as a German-American friendship activity. "We're counting on Soldiers to provide us with some great competition," said Heinz.

If you are interested in participating, check out www.baumholder-triathlon.de or email info@baumholder-triathlon.de for more information.

Army Family Action Plan offers community voice

Every year the Army Family Action Plan staff organizes a conference that gives the community the opportunity to share quality of life issues with the installation and Army leadership.

The families of Baumholder will have their chance to let their voices be heard at this year's annual AFAP Conference at the Rheinlander Convention Center Feb. 14-15. The conference begins at 8 a.m. and lasts through 2:30 p.m. on both days.

Have you submitted your issue yet? An issue can be anything concerning quality of life in Baumholder or within the Army community as a whole. Delegates are presently being selected to reflect the demographics of

the community. The delegates will be assigned to work groups that will discuss the issues solicited from the community with the goal of obtaining resolutions.

Everyone will have a voice so be sure to submit your issue today. There are several ways to express your concerns for discussion at the conference.

One way is to email the issue and how you would fix it to the AFAP coordinator at Ginalyn.Cowles@104asg.mwr.army.mil. Keep an eye out for the issue worksheets and drop boxes placed all around post for your convenience or use the worksheet below. Issues must be received by Feb. 7. One voice can make a difference.

Army Family Action Plan

Feb. 14-15
Rheinlander Convention Center
Issue worksheet

Issue/Concern: _____

Possible Solution: _____

Drop off this issue worksheet to any drop box location or to Army Community Service directly, Building 8745, second floor. For questions or concerns regarding the 2005 AFAP Conference call Ginalyn Cowles at mil485-8188, civ(06783)6-8188 or send email to Ginalyn.Cowles@104asg.mwr.army.mil.

Students steer Model United Nations

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Baumholder American High School is one of 18 Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe that participated in The Hague International Model United Nations conference held Jan. 23-28 in the Hague, Netherlands. High school teacher Joy Magowan and her 12 students spent one week at the Netherlands Congress Centre representing Baumholder American High School.

Students David Bryan, Stephan Calabria, Shannon Davila, Jamie Hoyle, Elizabeth Hussman, Vanessa Lopez, Lychelle Ignacio, Kara Krill, Zain Shah, Kimberly Vandry, Callahan Woodbery and Troy Zapata represented Kenya at the conference. The group was comprised of students currently enrolled

in a United Nations elective course as well as students participating as an extracurricular activity.

"It's a great program," said Dom Calabria, Baumholder American High School principal. "Only a small portion of the participants are American. Kids come from all over the world, from all walks of life and work together; it's a great opportunity for our students."

THIMUN is a nonprofit educational foundation associated with the U.N. Department of Public Information. The foundation organizes the annual five-day simulation in addition to a youth assembly. The objective of the conference is to give secondary school students the opportunity to apply their preparation and research in seeking solutions through negotiation and debate to various problems facing the world that are currently being discussed at the United Nations.

Baumholder teachers survive tsunami

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The world exploded on the morning of Dec. 26. Within moments scores of thousands of people lost their lives in the wake of the massive tsunami off the coast of Sumatra.

Across the Indian Ocean on the island of Sri Lanka, Mary Larson and Evelyn Cahoon were making their way through the jungle on safari in Yala West (Ruhuna) National Park. Their jungle adventure came to a screeching halt at precisely 9:15 a.m. when the effects of the earthquake that touched off the tsunami made landfall on the east coast of Sri Lanka.

"We were on the southeast corner of Sri Lanka. But we had gone on a jungle safari so we were a little bit inland, not on the coast," said Cahoon, a seventh-grade language arts teacher at Baumholder American High School.

Tracking leopards

"We were on a game drive and we had no idea actually what was happening until another driver came around. We thought he'd sighted some interesting animal and I was thinking he was making so much noise that he was going to scare any animals away," said Mary Larson, a world regions, world cultures teacher at Baumholder American High School.

"We were looking for leopards, actually, so we were inland and upland and most of the hotel places were down closer along the water. This guy was screaming, of course in Sinhalese and we didn't understand. The translation to us was 'There's trouble. We have to get back to the hotel.'"

"The language thing kept us kind of in the dark a lot. We could see the panic. We could see the terror, but we did not have a common language except when they chose to share something," said Cahoon.

Nobody knew exactly what had happened so everyone was trying to leave the jungle. "It was just kind of like a funnel at one point," said Larson. All of the 4X4s and pickups laden with tourists were trying to make their way back to the hotel along the narrow jungle road.

"We were sitting on the benches in the back and hanging on for dear life, tearing along. And the road of course went down to the hotels. There were vehicles on the side of the road and in the road, behind us, in front of us and we just couldn't go any farther," said Larson.

Not fully understanding what had happened, Cahoon and Larson's driver was also trying to make his way back down to the hotel. The driver of another vehicle, making its way up the hill with a Dutch couple on board, brought the first word of what had happened.

"The next message we got translated was, 'The Indian Ocean is coming,' and then we were thinking, 'OK, what does that mean,'" said Larson.

"People were bailing out of the vehicles. They were running into the jungle, climbing trees, locals and tourists both. It was a Buddhist holiday so they were out in force as well," she said.

"While we were sitting there in the 'Stau' in the jungle, we talked about this and we went through all the things. It was full moon and we were thinking the moon affects the tides, so maybe it was an unusual tide, but we were thinking why are these people so nuts?"

"And then as we talked we concluded it had to have been an earthquake someplace and it had to have been a tsunami and if we could just get back inland and upland we'd be safe. But I wasn't sure other people like the locals would understand that," said Larson.

The region around the Indian Ocean does not have much history of earthquakes and tsunami so when the water receded so quickly that fish were left behind on the beach, almost no one was aware of the impending danger making its way to shore.

"Our driver said, 'We haven't seen this in 2,000 years,' and he was going back to the legends and the stories that were told to him," said Cahoon.

"As we learned later some people were saved by the locals on the beach who saw there was something radically different on the shore. 'If you see fish on the shore it's bad,' but they were relying on their legends basically is what we understood," she said.

Eventually the convoy of some 15 vehicles that the teachers were a part of turned around and made its way back into the jungle.

"We thought we were just going upland to a high place to just wait it out, but they ended up taking us upland and inland and then out of the jungle," said Larson.

The driver took them to the



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Mary Larson (left) and Evelyn Cahoon, teachers at Baumholder American High School, were on a jungle safari in Sri Lanka when the tsunami struck the coast and washed into the first floor of their hotel.

nearby town of Tissamaharama, to a government hotel. "They must have kind of planned that amongst themselves because there were so many other vehicles that arrived there," said Cahoon.

"The vehicle with the Dutch couple ended up being evacuated to the same hotel and we got to see one of the pictures that they had. I don't know how far away they were. They must have had a telephoto lens, but you could see the wall of the sea coming up behind the palm trees, taller than the palm trees. So they actually had seen the water rising, and it was their driver who warned our driver that something was crazy," said Cahoon.

With so much confusion neither Cahoon nor Larson really had time to be scared, they said.

"I don't think I could conceptual-

ize really what had happened," said Cahoon.

"For me, once we figured out that it had to be tsunami then I knew we were all right," said Larson.

"If the guide had wanted to go farther down, I wasn't going with him. I think we understood better, because I don't think any of us were in the panic or terror that we saw around us, whether it was the locals

or the foreigners that were tourists, because, I mean, they were out in the trees. The Dutch couple was way up in a tree," said Larson.

"But they'd seen the water. They had a reason for panic," said Cahoon. "Our guide said don't climb the trees. Don't climb the trees unless the water comes to the vehicle. I'm thinking, I think I need to go to the tree a little bit sooner."

"But he thought the jungle was a bigger threat and he wanted us to stay in the vehicle," said Larson.

After a wild ride through the jungle Cahoon and Larson eventually made it to the safety of the government hotel in Tissamaharama.

It was there that they met up with the rest of their tour group, all Department of Defense Dependents Schools teachers and one family member. They were eventually able to get a message out by way of the tourist office in Sri Lanka, which notified the tourist office in Germany. They were also able to get word out about their safety through the American Consulate in Colombo, the capital.

At the hotel that afternoon Larson and Cahoon caught their breath. "We're going to need a plan because what if we don't get reunited with our group? What if something happened to them? We were at the point then of saying, well let's get a room here or somewhere so that we have a place," said Larson. "We had passports, money,

credit cards, all of those things with us. As we were forming this plan, in comes our bus driver and another part of our group, the one that had gone bird-watching."

"Our group was in three separate places during the tsunami. After a full week of doing quite some rigorous touring it was like, all right, let's go in different directions. We were three groups and for a while we didn't know what had happened to the others," said Cahoon.

Then it was time to leave. Their tour guide made transportation arrangements and they headed to Yala Village, the hotel they had been staying in up until the tsunami struck, to pick up their luggage and check out.

Getting out again

"We collected our luggage (not even wet), paid our drink and meal tab, checked out (the last tourists registered at the hotel to do so), and quickly departed to our 'evacuation hotel' in Tissamaharama, the one housing the rest of our tour group," said Cahoon.

The next day they drove overland to Negombo on the west coast of Sri Lanka. A day later they were on the road to Colombo before departing Sri Lanka.

"A lot of vehicles had white flags of fabric tied to their antennas or handlebars. Someone in the van asked the driver why. 'Many people in my country die,' he explained. In Asia white is the color of mourning," said Cahoon.

Community donates to disaster relief

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public
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Having survived the tsunami that pounded the east coast of Sri Lanka on Dec. 26, Evelyn Cahoon and Mary Larson, teachers at Baumholder American High School, now have a vested interest in the island country just off the southeast coast of India. Cahoon and Larson were on vacation in Sri Lanka when the tsunami struck the coast where they were staying.

They witnessed the destruction and saw the terror and panic that ensued when the sea claimed thousands of lives, all within minutes and without much warning.

"Relief kicked in immediately in Sri Lanka. In every town there were trucks going around with loudspeakers rattling stuff off and we asked what is this," said Larson. The locals were asking for donations of food, clothing and whatever they could give for relief.

"We took a big donation and gave it to our guide and driver and said to use it for relief. Our guide bought stuff for orphans who then did some drawings," said Larson.

The children drew pictures of the ocean with helicopters, boats turned upside down, people running away from the water and houses in the water.

"We wondered what the black streak present in each drawing was. It was the water. It (the tsunami) appeared as a thin black line along the horizon and it got bigger," said Cahoon.

"The water had gone in as far as five kilometers in some places. It washed into the ground floor of the hotel that we were staying at," said Larson.

Before leaving for Sri Lanka, Cahoon discussed her trip with her students. "They are all seventh-graders and a lot of them didn't process it, but I had one little boy when I came back who gave me a hug and said 'I'm so glad that you're safe.' That was kind of interesting. He had already made the connection and then I talked about it in my classes," said Cahoon.

The seventh-grader then initiated a fund-raising drive to support the relief effort. He and another seventh-grader made a little box to collect money. James Funk, Baumholder American High School vice principal, offered to match the sum they collected up to \$200.



The tsunami appears as a thin black line in this child's drawing.



Photo by Daryl Oneil

A Baumholder American High School student selects a treat during a bake sale sponsored by fellow students. All funds raised went toward the school's tsunami relief effort.

"They collected over \$200 from the students. They initiated it on their own and donated that money to the middle school student council for a bake sale. All that money is probably going to go to Sri Lanka," said Cahoon.

"The boy who really started the idea was Darren Hobson and the little girl that's 'the boss' was Jessica Zeblewski. It was great to see them take charge the way they did," said Funk.

"The fact that they jumped on this so quickly is a great endorsement of Evelyn Cahoon and how much she means to the kids," said Funk.

Other students who assisted Hobson and Zeblewski were, Ieshia Mainor, Ty Ray, Sean Smith and Brandon Sturtz.

In addition to the efforts of the middle school students, the High School Student Council sponsored a dance Jan. 15 and contributed some of the proceeds to the relief effort.

"I teach world regions, world cultures so of course I talked about my trip to my students before I left,

and when I got back here I had emails. I had emails from one kid that said 'Are you alright?' Before school started I ran into a parent who said, 'They said you were going there and they'd been worried,'" said Larson.

"The ninth- and 10th-graders here at the high school are in the process of a fund raiser also," she said.

"There is a contact at the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka, who works with a civic group that has taken a group of orphans from the tsunami and is providing whatever they need," she said.

"That would be a way to send money directly to somebody there, like we gave money to our guide. We want to try and not have the donations go to administrative costs. We want it to go right to the source," said Larson.

Other Baumholder schools are also contributing to the relief drive. Smith Elementary School conducted a fund drive Jan. 17-27 called Pennies From Heaven. The students placed donation cans throughout the school so that people could donate their spare change. "Donations are going to child centered organizations such as Feed The Children or UNICEF," said Helen Balilo, Smith Elementary School vice principal.

At Wetzel Elementary School the teachers initiated a fund drive that netted about \$327. Wetzel school nurse, Alanya Cleaves, headed up the teacher initiative.

When Baumholder residents learned about the disaster many turned to the Red Cross as a means of helping support the victims.

"We collected about \$1,300 for the relief fund and I have already forwarded it on. This was all unsolicited," said Mary Basiliere, Baumholder Red Cross station manager. "We have not actively done fund-raising here on post because people just keep calling and donating."

"We had Soldiers come in and say they want to make a donation and just put cash on my desk, and I say let me get your name so I can do a thank you and they say no, that's alright, and they leave," said Basiliere.

During the monthly Baumholder Community Spouses Club get-together in January, the club passed the hat for donations to the relief effort, and members contributed \$200. The BCSC then matched that donation and presented it to the Red Cross.

"The community has been great," said Basiliere. "I've had people come up to me and just hand me a check and say put this in your pocket. Somebody said, 'Oh here, this is for you,' while I was in the middle of talking to somebody so I just stuck it in my pocket. I got home that night and started emptying my pockets and I'm like, what is this? It's a \$200 donation for the tsunami."

Note: As of Jan. 21, the bake sale by the high school freshmen and sophomore classes netted \$323.45 and \$21.47 toward the tsunami relief fund.